

KENDRICK PARK DESIGN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, November 17, 2010 – 7:00 PM
Town Room, Town Hall
MINUTES

PRESENT: Peg Roberts, Marilyn Rodzwell, Alan Snow and Hope Crolius

STAFF: John Musante, Town Manager; Christine Brestrup, Senior Planner

1. **Introductions** – There was a small group present, so introductions were dispensed with.
2. **Election of Officers** – It was decided to postpone election of officers to a future meeting.
3. **Review of Work of Kendrick Park Committee and its Report to the Town Manager, dated May 2009** – Copies of the text of the first 5 pages of the report were distributed. There was no discussion.
4. **Preparation for meeting with consultants on November 23, 2010**

Ms. Roberts began the discussion by recommending that the committee “capture the essence of what it was supposed to be like” – i.e. remembering the intentions of George and Jenny Kendrick and remembering the history of the land and its uses. She reminded the committee members of the work that had been put into researching “natural playgrounds”. She noted that the Kendrick Park Committee had recommended that the park comprise multi-purpose areas. Ms. Roberts also stated that the design consultants should be made aware of the town’s plans for the Gateway Corridor. When the Gateway Corridor project is in place, the northern border of the park will be substantially different from the way it is today.

Mr. Musante thanked the committee members for serving and stated that it is not often that we get to design a new park in town. He recommended that we try to get funding for the entire park at once, rather than phasing the construction of the park. He stated that he had some materials on the Gateway project which might be useful to the consultants.

The committee members discussed the issue of restrooms. Ms. Rodzwell reminded the group that there had been previous discussions of combining the bus stop on East Pleasant Street with a restroom structure. The committee members discussed the possibility of funding coming from PVRTA for a combination bus shelter and restroom structure.

Ms. Brestrup noted that The Cecil Group includes architects as well as landscape architects. They have designed restroom facilities for other parks. However, they cautioned that these facilities can be expensive. It may be worthwhile to plan for the location of a restroom facility, but to build it at a later date, given the expense.

Ms. Crolius asked for a summary of the process by which the design consultants had been selected. Ms. Brestrup summarized the process, as follows.

An RFP for design services was published in late February of 2010. Thirteen responses were received.

A group of three citizens (members of the Kendrick Park Committee) and five town staff members were assembled by then Town Manager, Larry Shaffer, to review the responses to the RFP, to conduct interviews and to advise him on the choice of a design consultant.

Of the thirteen respondents, five design teams were selected for interviews. Two teams were invited back for second interviews. The Cecil Group was enthusiastically selected after the second interview.

Ms. Roberts recommended that the meeting with The Cecil Group, scheduled for Tuesday, November 23rd, be started at 3:30, in order to allow a site visit to proceed during daylight hours. Ms. Brestrup offered to contact The Cecil Group and request this change in schedule.

The committee members reviewed the document entitled “Kendrick Park Schematic Design Process”, dated October 28, 2010. Recommendations were made as follows:

- Among the list of town boards and committees which will be invited to public meetings, the Chamber of Commerce and the group known as “Promoting Downtown Amherst” should be invited;
- Design Meeting # 1 with the consultants should be scheduled for early-January;
- Design Meeting # 2 with the consultants should be scheduled for mid-February;
- Final Presentation with the Select Board should be scheduled for April, at a regular Select Board meeting.

Mr. Snow recommended that the physical scope of the design area be expanded to include connections to the surrounding neighborhoods and retail areas, in order to draw people into the park.

The possibility of televising the public meetings was mentioned. Ms. Brestrup offered to explore this possibility.

Ms. Crolus recommended that the town consider the condition of the Town Common at some time in the future. The Common is not in good condition. There was discussion about the deteriorated condition of the lawn areas and trees on the main portion of the Common and on the “North Common”, the area north of Spring Street.

Ms. Roberts stated that Kendrick Park should be protected from heavy traffic.

Mr. Snow noted that proper design and construction of the lawn areas and soils can prevent the destruction of lawns and damage to tree roots resulting from heavy park use.

Mr. Musante asked if the Committee is interested in the idea of ice skating. There are other places in town where ice skating could be accommodated. The committee

members did not express a strong preference for including ice skating in the park, however they noted that they did want the park to attract people to use it.

Mr. Musante stated that he planned to update the Select Board on Monday about the progress being made on a design for Kendrick Park.

5. **New Business** – none
6. **Future Meetings** – Tuesday, November 23, 2010, at 3:30 p.m.
7. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Christine M. Brestrup, Senior Planner